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League of Red Cross Societies

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The League of Red Cross Societies is an international organization grouping together, for their peace-time activities, the National Societies, of the following countries : Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chili, China, Colombia Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, Netherlands East Indies, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Salvador, Siam, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE

Volunteer Service

One definition of the Red Cross has called it "a working organization for service". The Red Cross peacetime programme means that it can and must come into action whenever the health or welfare of communities is seriously threatened, and the heavy responsibilities which fall to the Red Cross in wartime are familiar to everybody. Because of the enormous task which it is thus called upon to perform, the movement needs the active co-operation of all who believe in it. Such co-operation can be obtained when Red Cross Societies, extending their work in many different directions, afford to all their backers opportunities to share in their work.

For this working organization, with the heavy load it has to carry, cannot be satisfied with the kind of backing which goes no further than a subscription large or small to Red Cross funds. Subscriptions, of course, are vitally necessary, and without them the service which the Red Cross would be in a position to render would be slight indeed. But the best kind of backing goes further than this.

National Red Cross Societies are very wise when they organize the enrolment of volunteers to take a personal share in the work, and multiply the number of their members so engaged. But it often happens that people who would gladly volunteer their services do not know what kind of work they could do for the Red Cross, or how to offer their assistance. For this reason it is of great value to arrange for lectures and to issue posters and pamphlets regarding the different ways in which the Red Cross enlists and uses the services of volunteer helpers.

The possibilities are many. There are the detachments and formations whose members receive special training to fit them to participate in disaster relief work. There are the volunteer aids who undergo a different form of instruction so that they may help to lighten the burden which falls upon the professional nurse in time of emergencies. There are the organizers and workers on whom depends the success of membership and fund-raising campaigns. And these I mention are only the most obvious examples.

The present depression means for many persons a period of enforced leisure to which many would greatly prefer the opportunity of making themselves useful to an organization whose work is as useful and as widely known as the Red Cross. National Societies, of course, must take every care to avoid using their volunteers in a way prejudicial to the interests of unemployed men and women who might otherwise be put in the way of earning their living again; but while avoiding this Red Cross members will find plenty of opportunities to work for the Red Cross and plenty of satisfaction in doing so.

Take the Junior Red Cross as an example. The whole Junior movement is in its essence a volunteer service movement. The Junior Red Cross aims above all at teaching boys and girls to enjoy public spirited work for its own sake. The Red Cross can make no more valuable contribution than this to the ideals of the coming generation, and the Junior Red Cross motto "I Serve" symbolises what is perhaps the most valuable of the whole group of ideals which have often been called "the Red Cross spirit".

The present issue of the League's Bulletin carries a number of articles and notes relating to volunteer service. Readers will find in it not only authoritative pronouncements on this important subject, but also examples of the different ways in which the voluntary workers in different national Red Cross Societies contribute to the development of the Red Cross and the attainment of its humanitarian objects.

Ernest J. Swift

Tokyo, October 1934

It will be remembered that the XIVth International Red Cross Conference, held in Brussels in October 1930, unanimously accepted the invitation of the Japanese Red Cross and selected Tokyo as the seat of the XVth Conference. For the opening of this next international meeting which falls due in 1934, the Japanese Red Cross has now proposed the date of October 20th next year.

This date was agreed to by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross at a meeting held in Brussels on March 30th under the chairmanship of Professor Nolf, President of the Belgian Red Cross. The other representatives of national Societies present at the meeting were: M. Yamanouchi (representing H. E. Prince Tokugawa, Japan), M. Steen (representing Colonel Meinich, Norway), and the Marquis de Casa Valdes (Spain). The International Red Cross Committee was represented by H.E. M. Barbey-Ador, Minister of Switzerland in Brussels, and Mr. Sidney Brown; the League of Red Cross Societies by Colonel Draudt, Vice-Chairman, and by Mr. Ernest J. Swift, Secretary General.

The Commission transmitted formally for action, to the International Committee and the League, the request formulated in a letter from Prince Tokugawa that they will continue to co-operate closely with the Red Cross Society of Japan in the preparations for the Conference. This letter includes the following passage: "In conclusion, I would venture to express the hope that the International Red Cross bodies will use their influence with the national Societies and urge them to be represented at the Tokyo Conference by appropriately large delegations. The Japanese Red Cross has felt it a pleasure as well as a duty to send special delegates to all previous International Red Cross Conferences and consequently appreciates that the travelling which will be involved in 1934 for the delegates of the

majority of Societies may be felt to be long and costly. We hope, however, that all Societies will do us the honour of accepting the cordial invitation which will be sent them. We shall endeavour to obtain all possible facilities for delegates and their families, and are already in negotiations for this purpose with the State railways, the steamship companies, etc. No effort will be spared to make the delegates' stay in Japan as pleasant as possible and to give them not only a fresh opportunity to collaborate all together at our common task, but also an occasion to see something of the natural beauties and the artistic and historical monuments of our country.''

National Societies will undoubtedly appreciate the forethought shown by the Red Cross Society of Japan on behalf of the delegates who will attend the 1934 Conference. Information regarding itineraries and travelling costs are being collected and will be communicated to national Societies in due course. It is however estimated, on the basis of the information already available, that, with the special facilities provided by the Red Cross Society of Japan, a delegate from Europe who can give up eleven or twelve weeks to attendance at the Conference (eight or nine weeks travelling and two or three weeks in Japan) should be able to go to Tokyo via America and return via Singapore and Suez at a cost of not more than $600—less than £250.

Road Safety in France, Belgium and Holland

Between April 5th and 8th, a party composed of Red Cross delegates, representatives of the French National Union of Tourist Associations and members of the Press, made a tour of inspection of first aid posts in Northern France, Belgium, and Holland. The party was received, in Brussels and The Hague respectively, by the Presidents of the Belgian and Dutch Red Cross Societies, Professor Pierre Nolf and H.R.H. Prince Henry of the Netherlands. A very thorough examination was made of the network of posts in the three countries and the tour left no doubt in the minds of the delegates of the great value of Red Cross posts in minimizing the effects of road accidents. One Dutch post reported that it had dealt with 200 accidents in the course of the last eighteen months. The delegates were accompanied through Belgium and Holland by members of the Red Cross Central Committees of those countries and were able to form an excellent idea of the methods employed in staffing, financing, founding and maintaining the posts. Generally speaking, posts are placed every five kilometres along the main highways and their position is marked by the conventional road sign consisting of a large red cross on a white and blue ground. The position of the posts is also indicated on the road maps and in guide books relating to these countries.

While in Belgium, delegates had an opportunity of inspecting the excellent Red Cross Hospital, Health Centre and Ambulance Station at Brussels, and the Health Centre in Antwerp.

The tour was organized jointly by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Standing International Commission on First Aid on Highways. Among the Red Cross delegates taking part in the tour were: Mr. A. Maudslay, British Red Cross; Colonel Taucher, Finnish Red Cross; Mr. E. de Simon, President of the Hungarian Red Cross; Captain Roscher Lund, Norwegian Red Cross; Commandant Luis Garcia San Miguel y Tomé, Spanish Red Cross; Baron E. Stjernstedt, Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross, and two members of the League Secretariat.

The Brotherhood of the Blind

Inter-school correspondence has for many years been affording opportunities to members of the Junior Red Cross to establish friendly contact with children in other lands and to learn something of their mode of life, so different from their own yet, in many ways, so similar. There seems to be no valid reason why blind children should be permanently debarred by their infirmity from enjoying the same advantages. Obviously, the necessity of transcribing their letters into Braille presents something of a problem. In the United States, the Red Cross is fortunate enough to have a willing corps of volunteers at its disposal for such work.

A short time ago, the League of Red Cross Societies received through American Junior Red Cross headquarters in Washington a touching letter from a group of Juniors in the Ohio State School for the Blind, asking whether it would not be possible to find a blind group in another country who might be willing to correspond with them. The League immediately took up the question with the French Junior Red Cross, which has now arranged for the pupils of the Institution for Blind Children in Paris to exchange impressions with their comrades in America.

Death of Dr. Belisario Sosa

The President of the Peruvian Red Cross, who died in Lima on February 13th last, was one of Peru's leading scientists.

After founding the Academy of Medicine of Lima in 1884, Dr. Belisario Sosa successively occupied the posts of dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Minister of Public Works, Vice-President of the Peruvian Republic and Director of the Charity Association of Lima. He represented his country at several international meetings.

Dr. Sosa devoted the last years of his life to the Peruvian Red Cross. By his death, the Red Cross loses a wise and disinterested leader.

Florence Nightingale Foundation

Advice has been received of the formation, in Poland, of a national Florence Nightingale Committee composed of members of the Polish Red Cross, the Polish Association of Professional Nurses, associations of former pupils of nursing schools and a number of medical men. A sum of 700 Zlotys has already been collected which will form the nucleus of a fund to provide scholarships to enable Polish nurses to attend the courses of the International Foundation in London.

AUSTRALIA

Annual Report

The latest report issued by the Australian Red Cross shows that, despite a difficult year, the peace-time activities of the Society have been well maintained. In the hospitals conducted in New South Wales under the scheme for combating tuberculosis, 151 persons have been treated, many for lengthy periods. Gifts made through Red Cross branches to Melbourne hospitals amounted to £11,076. The canteens for out-patients and the kiosks for the sale of comforts again earned substantial profits, which were allocated for the provision of special equipment for the hospitals. The Blood Transfusion Organization, has continued to perform valued service. Approximately 230 donors are registered and 123 were called upon for transfusion during the year. The Red Cross work party in Victoria has pursued its task of sorting and parcelling the clothing contributed by the public to the State Relief Committee for distressed families.

The Red Cross canteen at the Children's Hospital in Adelaide has continued to provide refreshments for waiting patients. Sewing circles and branches have supplied garments and old linen for hospitals, while patchwork quilts, clothing and food have been given to distressed families.

The work of the Junior Red Cross throughout Australia has undergone a remarkable expansion. The record of help given to hospitals, to the aged, the sick and the distressed makes inspiring reading. A lively interchange of portfolios and letters has been maintained throughout the year.

An article giving interesting details on these activities has been written for the League by the Director of the Australian Junior Red Cross, and will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

AUSTRIA

Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign

A statistical table recently published by the Vienna Committee of the Austrian Red Cross summarizes the activities during 1932 of the anti-tuberculosis clinics run by the Red Cross in four districts of Vienna. The table shows that 15,091 medical examinations were made during that period, while public health nurses paid 17,900 home visits. Although the clinics are not equipped with X-Ray apparatus, arrangements were made with other organizations for 1,427 radiographical examinations. The clinics also undertook 768 analyses of sputum and 1,171 biological tests (cutaneous reactions).

Sale of Postcards

The Junior Section of the Austrian Red Cross derives part of its income from the sale of picture postcards. The charming cards designed by the young pupils of the Cizek Art School in Vienna have achieved a world-wide reputation and are doubtless familiar to our readers.

Now a further set of cards has been issued designed by the well-known Austrian illustrator, Hans Lang, and depicting scenes from fairy tales. It is anticipated that this new series will prove no less popular than its precursors.

BELGIUM

A Successful Manifestation

The fears entertained in certain quarters that the economic depression might adversely affect Red Cross funds and membership, and render the holding of ''Days'' and ''Weeks'' inadvisable at the present juncture have once more been brilliantly refuted by the experience of the Belgian Red Cross. Although full results of its ''Week'', held from April 2nd to 9th last, are not yet available, the reports thus far received from the provincial committees show a marked increase in membership.

This year's theme for the Week was: ''Care of the Teeth'' and all propaganda was concentrated on this subject. The popular appeal of the Red Cross toothbrushes proved irresistible and many thousands were sold, for the greater benefit both of Red Cross funds and the teeth of the nation.

As usual, the sale of pennants for motor-cars not only yielded a substantial profit for the Red Cross but also helped to create in the towns a favourable atmosphere for Red Cross propaganda.

It is encouraging to note that, in a country so gravely afflicted by the crisis as Belgium, there has been no falling off in public support of the Red Cross.

BULGARIA

Campaign for Rural Hygiene

Considerable emphasis has been laid, in récent years, on the urgent need of teaching rural populations how to safeguard their health and make their dwellings fit to live in.

The Bulgarian Red Cross has been working on these lines for many years with no small measure of success. As a result of representations made by the Society, the Ministry of Public Instruction agreed to interest village schoolmistresses in this work and to turn to good account the respect they inspire among the villagers. Each year, during the summer recess, special courses are arranged by the Ministry, in collaboration with the Red Cross, the Save the Children Committee and the Public Health Department, for the purpose of training teachers to act as health propaganda agents. The same bodies have organized a mobile infant health exhibition, which tours the country districts in charge of a doctor and a public health nurse. Advantage is taken of the military service period to instruct the conscripts—ninety per cent of whom are rustics—in the elements of hygiene.

The first consultation centres were established in poor quarters of the capital, but gradually spread to other towns. Their activity is not confined to the urban area but extends to the adjacent villages, which are visited at regular intervals by the public health nurses attached to the centres.

The first aid courses, and those organized by the Junior Red Cross for the benefit of school-children, also serve to promote health propaganda among the rural populations.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Nursing and Health Work

The semi-official Public Health Nursing Service in Prague extends over the whole of the town and its suburbs, representing a population of 846,000. The service is directed by a committee composed of delegates of the local government board, the social insurance authorities and the Czechoslovak Red Cross, but the actual work is carried out under the supervision of the Red Cross by eight nurses trained in the Society's institutions.

In the course of last year, 512 new cases were referred to the service by different official or private agencies. All new cases are investigated before registration. Follow-up work was carried out in connexion with 2,928 cases, while 12,355 visits were made to patients at their homes.

Social welfare figures prominently in the work of the Service. In order to provide food and clothing for destitute cases referred to it, the Service co-operates with private and official relief agencies. Loans of household utensils and bed-linen are made to needy persons while, in the case of families where the housewife is too ill to attend to her duties, arrangements are made for supplying domestic help and paying laundry bills. Dental treatment is also provided for patients and their families.

The Service occasionally receives groups of students from the Social Work School in Prague, who study its activities and accompany the nurses on their visits to patients' homes.

GERMANY

Rest Cures for Tired Mothers

Unemployment of the bread-winner involves no diminution of work for the housewife. On the contrary, the necessity of continually pinching and scraping to make ends meet places a strain on her which leads sooner or later to a breakdown. This is a contingency which had not hitherto been provided for in the Red Cross programme. Early this year the German Red Cross, with the help of the National Union of Red Cross Women, began to seek a solution of this problem and the first result of their combined efforts was the establishment of a temporary rest camp in a wooded spot not far from Berlin.

The beneficiaries of this experiment were fifteen wives of men who had been unemployed over a long period. To relieve their minds of anxiety as to the welfare of the children during their absence, the women were allowed to bring the younger ones to the camp, where they were cared for separately by child welfare nurses and benefited as much as their mothers from the effects of air, sunshine and nourishing food.

During the five weeks of their stay, the women underwent a fortifying régime of sun-baths, physical exercises, daily walks and a healthy diet, under the supervision of a doctor. Many of them gained as much as five or six pounds in weight. The most marked improvement, however, was in morale. Although these poor women arrived at the camp tired, harassed and discouraged, their outlook on life had completely changed when the time came for them to resume the daily struggle for existence.

GREAT BRITAIN

Competition for Juniors

In connexion with Red Cross Day to be held on May 12th, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, the British Junior Red Cross is offering prizes for the three best essays on the life and work of Florence Nightingale sent in by Juniors. The first and third prizes will consist in portraits of Florence Nightingale, while the winner of the second prize will receive a "Life of Florence Nightingale". In addition, money prizes of ten shillings, five shillings and five shillings respectively will be awarded to the "links" to which the winners belong. Essays may not exceed 500 words in length.

Appeal for Clothing

The National Union of Teachers having launched an appeal for £10,000 to be expended on the purchase of garments for the children of unemployed, Junior Red Cross headquarters in London are urging Juniors to help this appeal by sending in contributions, however small, in the form of money, clothing, shoes and stockings.

Ambulance Stations

According to the report just issued by the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society, the total number of ambulance stations equipped by the Council in Great Britain is 175, in addition to the 144 ambulances affiliated to the Service.

During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1932, the ambulances carried 117,153 patients. Since its foundation in 1913, upwards of a million patients have been transported by the Service. Since motoring began to develop into a popular pastime, the number of road accidents has been steadily on the increase, until last year, in Great Britain, the average daily toll was 566 injured and 18 killed.

HUNGARY

Album for League Exhibit

The League's permanent Junior Red Cross exhibit has been enriched by the addition of a very handsome specimen of a school correspondence album donated by the Hungarian Junior Red Cross. It is the work of a Junior group in the State Normal School in Budapest and contains interesting statistics in regard to Junior Red Cross activities, presented in a particularly graphic manner. The growing number of first-aid cabinets in the schools, for instance, is depicted by a graduated series of cabinets painted green, while the funds raised by Juniors for relief work are illustrated by bags of coins of increasing dimensions. The celebration of "Mothers' Day" is symbolized by a little girl in Hungarian costume presenting a bouquet to her mother; the child's silhouette increases in size each year in ratio to the number of Juniors taking part in the manifestation.

In another part of the album are to be found colourful specimens of national handiwork and, last but not least, a typical friendly letter addressed to a foreign group of Juniors.

ITALY

Encouragment for Juniors

In accordance with his annual custom, the President-General of the Italian Red Cross has addressed to school inspectors and directors of primary schools a circular letter accompanying a message signed by the Minister of Education, in which he praises the Junior Red Cross and urges the organization of more groups.

The Italian Red Cross has had the happy inspiration of including with these documents an illustrated article summarizing its efforts on behalf of the child, and enumerating the preventoria and children's colonies maintained by the Society in different parts of the country. It will be recalled that the Italian Juniors devote large sums to sending delicate children to these colonies; they also subvention the medical examination and treatment of school-children in certain districts.

Red Cross Benefit

A brilliant gathering met recently at the Farnese Palace in Rome to hear a song recital given by the noted soprano, Madeleine Grey, for the benefit of the Italian Red Cross. Refreshments were offered by the new French Ambassador and Mme de Jouvenel. The guests included the American, Belgian, British and German ambassadors.

NEW ZEALAND

Children's Health Camp

The Juniors of New Zealand found fresh opportunity of exercising their device: "SERVICE FOR OTHERS" when a health camp was opened at Waikouaiti for one month last January by the local authorities for the benefit of sixty delicate girls and boys from the primary schools of Dunedin (Otaga Province).

The contribution of the Juniors consisted in the provision of clothing and amusements. Several circles donated sums of money which were expended on material for 120 garments. Some of the circles helped in making the garments while others made sponge-bags and face cloths. Toothbrushes were presented by the Otaga Girls' High School. Collections of toys, games, sports equipment, bathing suits, etc., were also made.

NORWAY

Nurses' Club at Trondjhem

The Trondjhem committee of the Norwegian Red Cross has acquired a house which it has converted into a hostel for the nurses and pupils of its school. The accommodation of the club consists of a large dining-room, a spacious lounge, a sick ward, 45 bedrooms, and quarters for night nurses.

General Activities

In 1862, a Dorcas society was founded in Norway for the purpose of making layettes and baby-linen for distribution to indigent mothers. Sixty years later, in 1922, this association was incorporated with the Norwegian Red Cross. The members hold sewing meetings once a week. Last year, 125 parcels of bed and baby-linen were distributed.

The Stavanger Red Cross branch has added a new wing to the 24-bed sanatorium constructed eight years ago at Homsmoen, so that there is now room for 50 patients. The Arendal branch has similarly enlarged its seaside home at Lindtveit, which will thus be able to receive forty boys this year for a stay of three weeks each.

The Bodö branch has inaugurated a heliotherapic service in the local school-house. Free treatment will be given by the district nurse to children for whom sun-baths have been prescribed by the school doctor. The cost of installing this service amounted to approximately 1,000 Kronen.

Funds for Juniors

The wife of the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs held a bridge party at her home a short time ago in aid of the Junior Red Cross, the proceeds of which amounted to more than 1,000 Kronen. The organization of the party was entrusted to a small committee, which included the Secretary of the Junior Red Cross Section. Over a hundred guests attended.

PERU

Appointment of New President

The Peruvian Red Cross has notified the League of the nomination of *Señor Miguel Aljovin* as President of the Society in succession to the late Dr. Belisario Sosa, whose death is announced on another page.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Report on New Activities

The Philippines Chapter of the American Red Cross recently issued its annual report for the year 1932. Despite the fact that the period covered by this report was the most difficult and critical since the Chapter received its Charter in 1918, there has been a marked extension in its activities.

Foremost among the Chapter's new departures was the elaboration of a plan for the organization of Municipal Auxiliaries to strengthen the forces of the Red Cross in the Islands. A manual for Municipal Auxiliaries was published and addressed to all municipalities, together with application forms and other material. The co-operation of the Insular Government was secured and the results have surpassed all expectations. At the close of the year, 778 of the 940 municipalities were organized and received Certificates of Authority to maintain and operate Red Cross Auxiliaries.

Another important development is the assumption by the Chapter of responsibility for social work and other matters pertaining to the relief and rehabilitation of the families of lepers isolated in leper settlements, as well as of ex-lepers. The Philippine Anti-Leprosy Society turned over to the Chapter sufficient funds to support this service until July 1st, 1933. A separate department was set up to handle this new responsibility. The new service is in the nature of an experiment and its continuance after July will depend upon the results obtained.

The Chapter has now taken possession of its new headquarters premises, the dedication of which was announced in the March issue of the Bulletin.

PORTO RICO

A Thriving Section

For its size, probably no place in the world has so large a Junior enrolment as Porto Rico. Most of the schools can boast a 100 per cent membership.

Thanks to the efforts of the Junior Red Cross, pellagra—one of the worst scourges of the island—is gradually dying out. (Pellagra is a "deficiency" disease due to faulty nutrition.) Prior to the 1928 hurricane, the principal diet of the islanders was dried fish, rice and beans, and they had, at first, some difficulty in adapting themselves to the fare of meat and fresh vegetables served out to them during the relief period by the American Red Cross workers. The children, however, proved more malleable than their elders in this respect and the Red Cross gardens of Porto Rico are now an established feature of their programme. Most of the schools on the island have their potato and cabbage patches, tomatoes, lettuce and peas, and the inhabitants are being slowly weaned from unwholesome food habits.

In the Frederiksted Junior High School last year, the girls made twenty dresses and as many mattress covers, which the boys stuffed with grass. These were presented to the poorhouse. The same school runs a Red Cross swimming and life-saving class.

The Juniors of Porto Rico are exchanging inter-school correspondence with eight countries.

SIAM

Change of Secretary-General

The League Secretariat has been notified of the appointment of PHYA RAJANAKUL as Secretary-General of the Siamese Red Cross Society in place of H.S.H. Prince Vipulya Svastikul, who has retired.

SWEDEN

International Manifestation

An impressive Red Cross meeting took place on March 30th last at Gothenburg, when Prince Charles, President of the Swedish Red Cross, addressed the public on "The Swedish Red Cross and its Mission in Time of Peace". He was followed on the platform by Colonel Jens Meinich, President of the Norwegian Red Cross, who described the organization and activities of his Society.

The object of the manifestation was to stimulate the interest of the southern provinces in the Red Cross and to accentuate the close bonds existing between the national Societies of the Scandinavian countries. Further evidence of this co-operative spirit is to be found in the fact that Mr. Meinich, Jr., Secretary of the Norwegian Red Cross, has just completed a study visit at the headquarters of the Swedish Red Cross.

TURKEY

Constitution of Junior Section

The plans which have been under consideration by the Turkish Red Crescent for the past year or two have now matured and we are happy to announce the birth, on February 27th last, of a newcomer to the family of the Red Cross—the Turkish Junior Red Crescent. Its forty-nine sister sections in other parts of the world will watch the new baby's first steps with pride and interest!

UNITED STATES

Mrs. Roosevelt and Volunteers

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has accepted the honorary chairmanship of the National Committee on Volunteer Service of the American Red Cross, in accordance with the tradition that this Committee should be headed by the First Lady in the Land. Mrs. Hoover, the former honorary chairman, joins Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Howard Taft and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt as a vice-chairman.

The Chicago Volunteers

Volunteer service in Chicago has provided as many as 195 workers daily for the production of garments from Red Cross cotton for the unemployed. The central workroom's quota of 500 garments a day was exceeded so frequently that a new quota of 1,000 was selected. So great was the interest stimulated by this work that thousands of volunteers in churches, clubs, schools, homes, etc., organized garment production and approximately 200 auxiliaries were set up.

Books for the Blind

In spite of the general economic distress, the transcribing of books in Braille continues to be an expanding activity of the American Red Cross. A report on the work of Braille volunteers for the last fiscal year shows that the output in this troubled year exceeded that of any previous period, with a total production of 340,582 hand-copied pages. Of these, 268,962 have been bound in more than 2,800 volumes for presentation to libraries, schools, institutions and to individuals.

Beginning in the war period, the Red Cross has gradually raised Braille typing into an important branch of volunteer service. Because of the difficult and technical nature of the work and the special training required, its expansion has necessarily been slow. Where Braille instructors are not available, the Red Cross, in cooperation with the service for the blind of the Library of Congress, conducts a correspondence course in transcribing. In the past year, 832 new pupils studied Braille, of whom 357 received certificates after passing the necessary tests.

It is encouraging to note that last year 34 new chapters were credited with Braille work done by a few individual members, while 12 new chapters made Braille a regular part of their programme. There are now 73 chapters, four chapter branches and 61 affiliated societies doing Braille work regularly, in addition to scores of others where it is carried on intermittently.

Not only is general literature well represented but, for the benefit of students, text books—often on highly technical subjects—as well as books in French, Spanish, German and Latin, have been copied. Special Braille has also been prepared in fitting students for business careers. For blind children fairy tales, children's books and calendars have been copied. Members of the Junior Red Cross brailled 10,000 Christmas greeting cards last year for child inmates of state schools for the blind.

A small number of chapters have set up Braille presses. One chapter is experimenting in printing Braille music.

Campaign against Pellagra

The American Red Cross has issued, for the benefit of its local chapters, a booklet giving instructions as to the manner of combating pellagra, which is making disquieting progress in the United States as a consequence of the privations imposed on large sections of the community by the present economic depression.

Powdered yeast has been found to be an excellent specific provided it is accompanied by an appropriate diet, which should consist primarily of milk, tinned salmon, fresh vegetables, tomatoes, eggs, lean meat and whole cereals.

Great stress is laid in the booklet on the importance of training the public in rational methods of preparing food, arranging menus and appreciating the relative values of different foodstuffs. The Red Cross should seek to encourage vegetable growing, poultry rearing and cow-keeping, with a view to bringing about the adoption of a plan of production adapted to domestic needs.

Ohio River Floods

With the melting of the snows and the heavy rains of last winter, the American Red Cross found itself faced in March with yet another relief emergency, when the Ohio River reached its highest point in twenty years. In anticipation of the extensive floods which were bound to follow this abnormal rise, the Society notified 65 of its chapters in the menaced region to hold themselves in readiness to meet the situation. By March 22nd, the Red Cross was helping some ten thousand families in the flooded area, rescuing them from their water-logged homes, and providing them with food, shelter, fuel and clothing. The work was supervised by seven disaster relief experts from National Headquarters.

Earthquake in California

The news of the appalling disaster which smote Southern California on March 10th elicited cabled messages of sympathy from all parts of the world. The Japan Red Cross sent a donation of 10,000 Yen to be used in alleviating the distress of the sufferers.

The American Red Cross has launched an appeal to the nation for $500,000 to meet the costs of medical care for the victims and provide funds for rehabilitating the thousands of families who have lost their homes in the disaster. Five thousand cases of exposure, injuries, etc., have been handled by the medical staff and nurses in the Red Cross camp, in addition to 18 confinements.

Famous Pianist Helps Unemployed

On March 29th, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt forwarded to the Chairman of the American Red Cross a cheque for $6,874, representing the proceeds of a charity concert given the previous week by Paderewski. In accordance with the great pianist's desire, the sum will be expended on relief for the unemployed.

The proceeds of a similar concert given in Washington last year by Paderewski were used to supply food for miners' families.

Nurses Combat Typhoid Epidemic

An inspiring account of how Red Cross nurses joined with local health authorities in fighting a sudden and violent outbreak of typhoid comes from a community in South Dakota. Almost overnight, 200 cases developed and an emergency hospital of 45 beds had to be set up. At the peak of the epidemic, the local Red Cross nursing committee obtained the services of twenty nurses. Four visiting nurses ministered to as many as 80 patients in a single day. This must strike even the unitiated as a remarkable feat of endurance.

Teacher's Study Group

Announcement is made of the establishment, by the Georgian Education Association, of a section for the study of Junior Red Cross similar to that organized six years ago in Indiana by the State Teachers' Association. This new initiative is a direct result of the remarkable growth of Junior Red Cross enrolment in Georgia. The first meeting was held on April 21st last under the chairmanship of Dr. W. A. Sutton, Superintendent of Atlanta Schools and former president of the National Education Association.

Juniors Learn to Make Soap

From a small town of the Middle West comes a bright example of the resourcefulness of the American Juniors in meeting human needs. The school-children of this community, enrolled in the Junior Red Cross, finding that there was a scarcity of soap among many families of the poorer classes, set to work with juvenile enthusiasm to remedy this unfortunate situation. Over a hundred of them, ranging in age from six to twelve, revived the art of soap-making, bringing grease and other ingredients from home and following the directions given in a school reader. They were assisted in this delicate operation by an old lady who was glad to contribute the knowledge acquired in pioneering days.

The net result of this first effort was 78 bars of soap, which were handed over to the city nurse and the secretary of the local Red Cross chapter for distribution. So encouraged were the children by their success that they have decided to add this new activity to the monthly projects of their organization.

Ally for Teachers

The American Red Cross Courier of January last gives prominence to an article by Mr. E. B. Noyes, assistant superintendent of schools of Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, which describes the innumerable ways in which teachers can make use of the Junior Red Cross programme in the school curriculum. The article concludes with the following statement:

"The Junior Red Cross differs from other organized groups knocking at the school door in that its aims are educational; it is an organization of children, by children and for children, within the school. It comes, not to put something additional into an already crowded curriculum, but to give inspiration and assistance in carrying out the school programme, and it provides the teacher with invaluable aids to up-to-date teaching".

THE WORK OF THE PRAGUE CONFERENCE

THE Central European Red Cross Conference, organized under the joint auspices of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Society and the League, sat from April 12th to 14th in the beautiful Town Hall of Prague.

In this historical setting, delegates from fourteen national Red Cross Societies, the International Red Cross Committee, the League of Red Cross Societies, the League of Nations and the International Council of Nurses, pooled their store of knowledge, experience and ideas in a common endeavour to improve their organization and to increase their utility, nationally and internationally.

The inaugural session on the morning of the 12th united in the grand Council Chamber a large gathering composed of delegates of the Austrian, Czechoslovak, German, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish Red Cross Societies, as official members of the Conference; representatives of the Belgian, Bulgarian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Roumanian and Yugoslav Societies, attending in an advisory capacity ; delegates of the Czechoslovak Government, which was officially represented by Mr. F. Spina, Minister of Health, and members of the Secretariats of the four international bodies above-mentioned.

The delegates were welcomed, in moving terms, by Dr. Masarykova, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross. Colonel Draudt, as spokesman of the League, expressed the gratitude of the Conference members for the warm reception accorded them. Mr. Swift, Secretary-General of the League, summarized the programme awaiting the Conference and spoke of the benefits which had been derived from previous regional conferences. The Minister of Health extended the greeting of the Czechoslovak Government and, after the singing of a hymn by a Junior Red Cross choir, the Conference entered upon its labours.

The first day was given up to the study of nursing problems, on the basis of the report compiled by Mlle Lefebvre, assistant director of the League's Nursing Division.

The LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS OF THE NURSE being closely related to the organization of Red Cross nursing services, Countess Tarnowska, president of the Polish Red Cross Nursing Service, met with the approval of all the delegates when she pointed out that the essential conditions for a satisfactory status are: the constitution of an official Central Nursing Bureau, directed by a trained nurse; legislation making it obligatory for all student nurses to have received a secondary education and to undergo theoretical and practical training, not only in care of the sick but also in the hygienic and educational aspects of the public health nurses' mission; the recognition of the nursing uniform; the registration of nurses; their adequate protection in the event of accident, sickness and disablement, and the institution of old-age pensions for nurses. Countess Tarnowska concluded her remarks with a reference to the necessity for post-graduate courses and the importance of obstetrical training for nurses.

With regard to the number of nurses which each country should have, Miss Reimann, Secretary of the International Council of Nurses,

stated that one nurse per eight hundred inhabitants was a reasonable proportion, but very few countries had attained this level.

Mlle Lefebvre emphasized the desirability of each National Society having a Nursing Division at headquarters, directed by a competent nurse, and being able, in case of emergency, to call upon a heavy reserve of trained nurses in all parts of the country.

Mme Celmins, president of the Latvian Nurses' Association, gave an authoritative account of the working conditions among nurses. In theory, she said, the eight-hour day is desirable, while daily rest periods and annual holidays are essential. The nurse should be properly nourished and have a room of her own; diversion should be provided for her and care given to her physical and intellectual development. Her salary should be at least equal to that of a primary school-teacher. Her superiors should take a personal interest in her work so that she may derive the maximum of satisfaction from it. Only in these conditions can the best results be achieved.

In this connexion Miss Goff, of the League of Nation's Health Section, remarked that, in all the countries she had visited, the Red Cross provided better working conditions for nurses than any other institution.

Rural Public Health Nursing is fraught with problems which were treated very fully in a report presented by Mlle Rybnickova, nurse supervisor of the Czechoslovak Red Cross. The rôle of the rural nurse is essentially a versatile one, including as it does care of the sick, prevention of disease, health education and even domestic economy. As Miss Goff so judiciously pointed out, only the best and most experienced of nurses are fitted for this class of work. They must be afforded special training in rural centres, preferably in connexion with health demonstrations; they must undergo one year's supervised study in the country. They should then be entrusted with a moderate-sized circumscription and be regularly visited by lady supervisors who will give them moral support and practical aid. They must be provided with a uniform and given opportunities of attending periodical meetings where they may refresh their ideas and discuss their problems. Finally, the doctors in charge of the rural health services must be brought to realize the importance of the nurse's mission as a factor in the prevention of disease.

According to Miss Reimann, there should be at least one public health nurse for every 6,000 inhabitants, but this proportion has been attained only in six countries.

Dr. Rudivitch, member of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Red Cross, stressed the importance of providing adequate training for public health nurses to enable them to fulfil their manifold mission in the home, the school and the dispensary.

Mr. Berceanu, of the Roumanian Red Cross, deemed that hygiene and care of the sick should be incorporated in the curricula of high schools, domestic economy classes, vocational institutes and training schools for teachers.

Dr. Masarykova reminded the delegates that the central figure in rural health protection is the housewife. By seconding her efforts, the public health nurse fulfils a highly important social mission.

Considerable interest was aroused by the declaration of Frau Husstedt, directress of the German Red Cross Nurses' Home at Breslau, on the final question : The training and enrolment of volunteer nurses. Her explanation of the organization of the *Mutterhäuser*, which afford "maternal" protection to the nurse throughout all the stages of her career, greatly impressed the meeting.

Mr. de Simon, president of the Hungarian Red Cross, described how the Red Cross is collaborating with child welfare organizations in his country through the nurses attached to these institutions. Interesting statements were also made by other nursing delegates, including Mlle Molnarova, chief of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Nursing Division.

In the view of Mlle Odier, member of the International Red Cross Committee, the Red Cross volunteer nurse should undergo special training designed to make of her something more than a pseudo-nurse ; such training, conceived somewhat on the lines of the health courses given in secondary schools and the courses in care of the sick and injured organized by the Red Cross, should be directed by Red Cross doctors and trained nurses. The volunteer should be imbued with the sentiment of her rôle in the scheme of the Red Cross; she should be aware of her place in the hierarchy of the organization, comprehend the limits of her mission and recognize the necessity for discipline.

The basis of enrolment should be dual registration, by name and by region, the cards being filed both at the Central Nursing Bureau and at the offices of the local or regional Red Cross section. Nurses and nurses' aids alike share the same ideal, the same duties, the same spirit—which is that of the Red Cross.

The second day was devoted to the organization and work of local sections. Under the chairmanship of Colonel Draudt, many aspects of these questions were clarified. The discussions were based on the report compiled by Dr. Sand, and approved by the Board of Governors at its last meeting.

As pointed out by Herr Mitlöhner, member of the Central Committee of the Austrian Red Cross, who presented a report on the organization of local sections, and by Herr Grün-

eisen, who represented the Secretary-General of the German Red Cross, the activity of the National Societies is comprised between two poles: on the one hand, the Central Committee, which constitutes the link with other Red Cross Societies, the Government, public authorities and national organizations; on the other hand, the local sections, which are in direct contact with the public. The Central Committee lays down the general lines of action, while the local committees organize the enrolment of members, collect the greater part of the funds and carry out a nation-wide programme made up of a multitude of different activities. Continuous and reciprocal relations exist between these two poles, the harmony of which depends on a clear definition of their respective spheres. This definition is to be found in the following formula: strict subordination of the local committees as regards the fundamental task of the Red Cross, i.e. preparedness for war, disaster or accident, but the fullest autonomy as regards what may be described as the other peace-time activities. To strengthen the local sections is to strengthen the Red Cross itself of which they are the very substance, while maintaining the hierarchical authority essential to the uniformity of action of the Red Cross.

Dr. Barons, president of the Latvian Red Cross, and Mr. Dronsart, director-general of the Belgian Red Cross, were agreed as to the necessity of demanding from local sections a degree of activity commensurate with their strength and resources, under the guidance and support of the central organism.

Dr. Zaklinski, director-general of the Polish Red Cross, demonstrated the utility of extending and individualizing the work of the local sections which carry the Red Cross ideal into every corner of the territory.

The provincial committees should not attempt to play a technical rôle or take important initiatives. As representatives of the Central Committee, their mission is to co-ordinate the efforts of the local sections. Uniformity of Red Cross action throughout the country will be facilitated by periodical study visits to headquarters. The Conference was unanimous in approving this suggestion of Dr. Masarykova.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLMENT formed the subject of a report by Mr. de Simon, commented by several of the other delegates, including Mr. Swift. Enrolment should be based on the support of the authorities, the clergy, the teaching profession, the press and such groups as life-saving corps, athletic clubs, mutual aid societies, women's clubs, shopkeepers' unions, transport companies, etc.

Widespread membership is the factor which gives the Red Cross its prestige and independence, and implants it in the national consciousness. Annual membership drives are the best means of achieving this. Their success depends upon the degree of public confidence enjoyed by the Red Cross, which must have imposed itself as an essential element in the life of the nation.

Enrolment will be facilitated by closely associating the Juniors with the very existence of the Red Cross, by entrusting them with a share in its activities, by according a place to their delegates on the local committees, and by inviting them to attend official ceremonies. As the XIVth International Conference declared in one of its resolutions: the Junior Red Cross is an integral part of the Red Cross. To retain the interest of Juniors after they have left school, ''Younger Sets'', post-school centres and university sections have been formed in many countries.

In endeavouring to bridge the gap between Junior and Senior membership, care should be exercized to allow no diminution of personal activity. All Juniors are active members of the Red Cross. This, unfortunately, is not the case with adult members who, all too often, are content merely to pay their subscription. Each individual should find in the Red Cross an opportunity for personal service.

FUND-RAISING METHODS were analyzed by Dr. Zemgulis, delegate of the Lithuanian Red Cross. Too-frequent appeals should be avoided; the public will not be asked to subscribe more than once a year, and then only in the course of a very carefully organized campaign. As Count Potocki, president of the Polish Red Cross, pointed out, financial independence is essential to the Red Cross, for it must support administrative services, a technical staff and large stocks of material. It is desirable that the Red Cross should possess a reserve fund for exceptional emergencies, the interest on which would help to meet administrative costs. The small proportion of subscriptions turned over by local sections to the Central Committee are indicative more of the national unity of the Red Cross than of any financial obligation. Indeed, in the majority of cases, the local committees receive more than they give, provided the Central Committee is endowed with a regular income. Moreover, local sections with small resources stand to gain by the arrangement.

The ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL SECTIONS was the last of the problems confronting the Conference. Introduced by Dr. Marjanko and Mme Herdova, delegates of the Czechoslovak local groups, this study demonstrated the necessity of analyzing scientifically the work and methods of the Red Cross. Its most popular, universal and fundamental activity is relief, since this derives from the very conception to which the Red Cross owes its existence. Whether it be relief of wounded in time of war or the succouring of victims of disaster or accident,

this is the traditional activity which the public expects of the Red Cross, which evokes the idea of the Red Cross in the remotest villages, which procures it the active collaboration of its members and which, by the variety of its work in war and peace, reveals the fundamental unity of the Red Cross. This work undoubtedly demands an experienced staff imbued with the spirit of the Red Cross. Side by side with this traditional mission, the social rôle can and should be developed, for, by its very essence, the Red Cross cannot remain indifferent to suffering in any form. In a word, the Red Cross must be prepared to step into the breach at all times and wherever its help may be needed. The value of its intervention resides in the spirit in which it is conceived and carried out.

This interpretation, formulated by Colonel Draudt and warmly seconded by Dr. Masarykova and H. E. Mr. P. Doreff, Bulgarian Minister in Prague, met with the approbation of all the members of the Conference, who hailed it as the best possible means of promoting peace and bringing about international collaboration. The foundation of the International Relief Union, due to Senator Ciraolo, will open up new opportunities for the Red Cross. In this connexion, Colonel Draudt reminded the delegates how desirable it is that all the Red Cross Societies should secure mandates from their Governments to represent them on the Council of the Union.

At the close of the Conference, Count Potocki moved the following resolution, which was passed by acclamation:

The delegates of Red Cross Societies present at the Regional Conference in Prague,

express their admiration to the Czechoslovak Red Cross for the remarkable manner in which the Conference has been organized;

thank that Society and the League for having given them an opportunity of meeting together and discussing their common problems in an atmosphere of confidence and cordiality;

will remember with gratitude the generous hospitality extended to them by the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the Prague municipality;

desire to assure Dr. Masarykova, the distinguished president of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, of their deep appreciation of the noble inspiration which she has communicated to every phase of the Conference;

express their gratification at the presence among them of delegates of the International Red Cross Committee, and thank the League, in the person of its Vice-Chairman, Colonel Draudt, and its Secretary-General, Mr. Swift, for its contribution towards the success of the Conference.

Mr. Swift thanked the national Red Cross Societies for their collaboration in making such an outstanding success of the Conference. Mlle Suzanne Ferrière, in the name of the International Red Cross Committee, expressed satisfaction at the opportunity thus provided of seeing the work of the National Societies at close quarters. Mr. Yamanouchi, Vice-Chairman of the League, voiced the hope that all present would be able to attend the XVth International Red Cross Conference in Tokyo next year. The closing speech was delivered by Dr. Masarykova, who, after expressing her gratification at the results achieved, invited the members of the Conference to attend the proclamation of the Red Cross Truce the following day and formulated the warmest wishes for the future of all the National Societies, concluding with this profession of faith: "We believe, we hope, we work".

Receptions were offered to the delegates by Mme Haering, wife of the Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, and by the Mayor of Prague, Mr. Baxa. Dr. Masarykova received the members of the Conference at lunch at the Hradcany (Prague Castle), where they were able to admire the beauty of the mediaeval decorations, the magnificent architectural proportions of this ancient stronghold of the Bohemian kings, and the incomparable panorama of Prague spread out below them. It will be long before those who had the good fortune to be present at this manifestation will forget the kindly welcome extended to them by the President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

The members of the Conference were privileged to attend the ceremonies held in connexion with the Easter Truce, proclaimed in Prague on April 15th. Originated by the Czechoslovak Red Cross a decade ago, this has now become a national tradition. The opening of the Truce was solemnly proclaimed in the old Parliament Hall by the President of the Chamber of Deputies, in the presence of President Masaryk and a vast gathering composed of Government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps the delegates of the Red Cross Conference and all the notabilities of Prague. Dr. Vacek, in the name of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, Mr. Benes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Czechoslovak Government, Colonel Draudt, in the name of the International Red Cross, and Mr. Dronsart as spokesman of the Study Commission for the Truce, in turn praised the spirit animating this admirable manifestation and the affirmation by a whole people of the will to pursue the ideal of peace and fraternity symbolized by the Red Cross. As the President of the Republic reappeared on the steps of the Parliament House, the thunder of a cannon rent the air. At this signal, all motion was suspended, and for two minutes, the town was wrapped in the most complete silence. It was as if the heart of Prague had ceased momentarily to throb, the better to hear the voice of its heroic dead urging those still in the land of the living to answer the appeal of the Red Cross to help, through peace and brotherly love, to build up a better and a finer world.

THE VOLUNTEERS SEE IT THROUGH

By Miss MABEL T. BOARDMAN,

Director of the Volunteer Service of the American Red Cross.

THE American Red Cross is essentially a volunteer organization. We depend on voluntary subscriptions for our regular yearly income and it is to voluntary assistance that we look for carrying out the greater part of our programme. This help has been most generously accorded us from the beginning. During the war thousands of our women sewed day after day providing dressings and comforts for the soldiers, and when peace came it was felt that the magnificent energy and spirit which had been awakened by the emergency should be directed to fulfilling the hardly less urgent needs of peace.

Voluntary service has very real advantages from the Red Cross point of view. Greater interest is taken in work in which the individual can have an active part than in that which merely requires a subscription. It engages wide sympathy and support for Red Cross work, and the interest developed is of invaluable assistance in raising necessary funds and in general propaganda. The main justification of volunteer service is, however, that it offers to a community simply trained volunteers who are not only prepared for an emergency, but who give regular service throughout the year and who provide liaison with other organizations whose co-operation may be of help in war or disaster.

Red Cross volunteer service has come more and more to the fore in the last few years in America. Disaster relief is carried out very largely through volunteer help directed by a small professional corps of trained workers. Even the ordinary routine services of a majority of chapters, particularly in the smaller communities, are maintained by volunteers. Volunteers played an important part in Mississippi flood relief when 600,000 persons required aid, while the immense problem of unemployment needs has made increasing calls on the goodwill of our staunch Red Cross volunteer supporters.

Take the garment branch of our Production Service alone. We have mobilized hundreds of thousands of women volunteers throughout the country and they are making some millions of garments out of the 800,000 bales of government cotton given to the Red Cross for unemployment relief. Fortunately groups of women had continued the work of garment production for various purposes since the war and all that was necessary was the expansion of the existing organization.

Even before the gift of government cotton, a special appeal had been addressed to local chapters requesting that the Red Cross production service should see that no child had to stay away from school for lack of proper garments. This service increased enormously with the arrival of government cotton. Sewing groups were promptly mobilized in women's clubs, churches, government departments and among individuals. In many places large central workrooms were obtained. Generally they were given free. Every means was employed to enlist needlewomen—the press, broadcasting, letters to women's organizations. So the work began, developing naturally out of the existing organizations till it has become the largest undertaking of its kind by Red Cross volunteers since the war. Already over 4,000,000 men, women and children have benefited by volunteer work.

The desire to be of personal help in these days of stress has increased the activities of all of our volunteer services. More young women are coming into the Red Cross, many as Staff Assistants; more chapters have organized Motor Corps; canteens have been active in helping in school luncheons, in instructing women in the use of government flour and in teaching them the kinds of nourishing but inexpensive food and how to prepare it. Health Aids are doing their part in clinics and hospitals, while our Grey Ladies help to keep up the morale of the sick.

Different types of service have their own special appeal and there is merit in variety.

It has been found useful to record the names of workers, hours of service, and amount of work in case of mobilization for future emergencies. It is very important too that our volunteers should have some simple training in their chosen duties. The Canteen Manual gives practical suggestions on menus and on preserving fruits and vegetables. The Motor Corps are given First Aid courses and taught motor repairs. Our Health Aids take the course in Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick while the Grey Ladies are required to attend a series of lectures by the hospital staff of the institution where they work.

We have found it helpful to have simple uniforms for our different women volunteers with special brooches for group officials. The uniform becomes a symbol to the worker of her association with the great work of the Red Cross and helps to inspire her to carry on the service traditions of the organization.

	Staff Assistance Corps	*Production Corps*	*Canteen Corps*	*Motor Corps*	*Health Aid Corps*	*Home Service*	*Hostess Hospital Service & Recreation Corps*
War Service	Clerical work.	Supplies for hospitals.	Canteen service for troops, hospitals &c.	Transport of sick & wounded.	Escort patients.	Social service.	Provide recreation.
Home Service	Information.	Supplies for Home Service Committee.		Transport for Home Service workers.	Accompany patients.		Entertainment.
Disaster	Enquiries & files.	Repairing & making garments.	Preparation & distribution of food.	Transport of relief workers, victims & supplies.	Assist doctors & nurses.	Social service.	Recreation for children
Chapter Headquarters	Office work & translations	Emergency closets.	Assist at meetings, conferences & entertainments.	Transport.	Assist local organizations.		Entertainments.
Publicity	Press articles, lectures.						
Roll Call	Organization work, recruiting.						
First Aid, Life Saving, Home Hygiene, Care of the Sick	Teaching.			Transport.	Assist instructors.		
Nursing	Office work.	Emergency closets.	Nutrition work.	Transport.	Assist nurses.	Social service.	Entertain children at clinics, lectures, etc.
Junior Red Cross	Org. of JRC in schools.	Providing material.	School lunches.	Transport.	Lectures to children.		Recreation.
Local organization		Providing material for hospitals	Preparing preserves.	Transport.			

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICES OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

THE YOUNGEST VOLUNTEERS

FROM the very beginning the Junior Red Cross has been a volunteer organization. It came into existence in 1914 in the Province of Quebec in Canada, when children participated in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross through the making of bandages, dressings and comforts for the soldiers at the front. In the same way, in 1917, eleven million school children in the United States undertook a production programme designed to provide surgical dressings and comforts for soldiers, furniture for hospitals and garments for refugee children in Europe. After the war the members of the Junior Red Cross diverted their efforts, with those of their elders, to a peacetime programme, but, in all the countries where the movement spread so rapidly, and whatever direction the post-war development took, the Junior Red Cross preserved its original volunteer character.

The Junior Red Cross, by its very definition, is a "voluntary movement within the school". It has adopted the same principles as the parent Red Cross organizations and adapted their application to meet school conditions. It is not only a potent force for the formation of healthy habits in its members, for the implanting of ideals of human charity and international solidarity; it is also the great recruiting ground for the Red Cross. It is always hoped that the devotion to Red Cross ideals learned in the school will be carried over into later life and help build up a national Society powerful enough to meet all the manifold demands of disaster relief, first-aid service, nursing service and general health and welfare work. The great family of the national Red Cross Societies is the world's biggest volunteer organization. That is not to say that it relies entirely on volunteer workers, but these volun-

teer workers are among the most valued of its supporters and are responsible for the great bulk of the work. It is natural, therefore, that the Junior Red Cross, as the great training ground for Red Cross work, should pay special attention to volunteer service and should inculcate in its members the spirit of self-sacrifice and of service to others. Whether or not the Junior members of the Red Cross are numbered later in the adult membership, the lessons learned in the Junior Group will not be wasted but will fructify abundantly for the benefit of the community.

The success of the Junior movement has been due essentially to its voluntary character. It takes the altruistic aspirations of children the world over and directs them into useful channels: helping the needy and distressed first of all in their own district, then in their own country and lastly wherever in the world there is a call for aid in time of disaster. The Junior Red Cross is a supremely practical movement; it has never concerned itself particularly with constructing alluring theories of education, health, or child psychology, but has set its members definite tasks to do, instilling in them habits of personal hygiene, self sacrifice, thought for others and friendliness to their neighbours in their own country and abroad. It is a seed ground for the better citizens of the future. If the young plant is strong and healthy, grown in a good soil, not deformed by disease, not warped by unhealthy influences, the adult tree will be one of the glories of the forest.

It is largely on account of its voluntary nature and of its value in the training of character, that the Junior Red Cross movement has had such a warm welcome from the teaching profession.

In the schools, it does not come asking for something but demands only that it may be allowed to make its contribution to the life of the school and the larger life of the community.

What then are the various forms voluntary service takes among the Juniors? One cannot hope to mention all, for they are numerous and, moreover, are not uniform from country to country. The following main heads indicate, however, the general lines of Junior Red Cross volunteer service.

Juniors give help to their fellow pupils in the school and help to beautify and improve the school premises themselves. They look after the upkeep of school gardens, organize school libraries, clubs and recreation rooms, and take a personal pride in the cleanliness and order of their classrooms. They make special efforts to help the poor and needy among their comrades. Polish children, for instance, bind old school books for needy children and give up their playtime to help backward pupils in their studies.

Juniors have often taken part in the provision of food for the needy. This branch of their activity has been greatly increased to meet the demands of the crisis, and Juniors have organized free school canteens, milk and soup distributions for the unemployed and their children. Hundreds of groups in the United States have done canning in their school cookery classes for the benefit of the unemployed.

Another branch of Junior service which has increased for the same reason as the previous one is the production of garments for the needy and for orphans. Many Juniors, those of Czechoslovakia in particular, thoughtfully take home the clothes of their poor comrades to mend. In all parts of the world, Juniors make great collections of clothing for poor children every year. In many places groups sew and mend garments for the unemployed.

Juniors give many hours of voluntary service during Junior propaganda campaigns. Hungarian Juniors, for instance, make around 30,000 articles for each Junior Red Cross Christmas sale. They sell tickets, organize entertainments and Red Cross demonstrations.

Juniors have often been able to give practical help in times of disaster either by collecting funds for relief or by taking an active part in the relief work of the Red Cross. Indian Juniors in the Punjab built dykes round many of the villages to protect them against floods. One group worked all night until they had protected their school building by a dyke.

Junior volunteers have rendered particularly valuable service during Red Cross membership campaigns and Red Cross weeks. They organize performances and pageants, hold displays and living tableaux in store windows, give talks to pupils on the Red Cross, design Red Cross posters, advertise the campaign by bulletins and posters on school notice boards and by judicious distribution of Red Cross literature, giving information on disaster relief and local welfare work. There is often a demand for volunteers for extra clerical work during a membership campaign when Juniors can be useful writing and addressing letters.

But Junior co-operation with the work of the senior society need not be confined to the period of the membership campaign. Juniors can help at headquarters or in branch offices by acting as messengers and giving occasional clerical service.

These examples are only a selection from the many voluntary activities of Juniors. They serve to show what excellent training in unselfish action the Junior Red Cross provides. The Juniors of today are the Red Cross volunteers of tomorrow.

A GENERATION AT THE CROSS ROADS

UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

THE German nation has, during the last few years, made a serious attempt to tackle one of the most baffling problems that confront it and every other great industrial nation struck by severe unemployment. The problem is that of the future of a generation. That is no exaggeration; last winter there were some six million unemployed in Germany; three million in England, fourteen million in the United States. Every year for the last three years in England and Germany, thousands of boys and girls have left school and, instead of finding a place in the economic life of their country, have found themselves stranded at that early age on the bleak shores of unemployment. Luckier ones have had work for a year or so perhaps and have then lost their places to younger and cheaper labour. Unemployment at that age, the most formative in their life, constitutes a danger to physique and most of all to morale to which no country and no organization which is concerned about the character of its people in ten or twenty years' time can be indifferent.

The German attempt to deal with the problem has the whole hearted support of the German Red Cross and it is from the Red Cross angle that the question is of immediate interest to all Red Cross societies working among unemployed populations. The great effort of the German nation to protect its youth deserves the closest attention; its success or failure is perhaps significant for the future of a large part of the young generation to-day. The main attack on the problem is made through the VOLUNTARY SERVICE MOVEMENT (Freiwilliger Arbeitsdienst). This is further supplemented by CRISIS SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (Notwerk der Deutschen Jugend). Both forms of service receive financial backing from the government, but the detailed organization is entrusted either to special committees or to existing youth and other associations interested in the problem. Emphasis is laid on the fact that the unemployed should do as much as possible to help themselves.

The leading idea of the German plan is that the younger unemployed shall be integrated into a scheme of voluntary service where organization and work will prevent the demoralizing effects of prolonged and involuntary idleness. Work is after all the only real *remedy* for unemployment; other measures are merely palliatives. They can shield the unemployed against hunger, cold and disease; clubs can help to fill their idle hours, but work alone can satisfy their self-respect.

The German Red Cross has of course already made wide use of volunteers in its work: with its first aid detachments, with its voluntary aids for social and household work and in other ways. It has also contributed to welfare work among the unemployed by the provision of meals for them and their children, by gifts of clothing and firing, and by providing sick care for those needing it; so that the government call for co-operation in Voluntary Service among young people had a double appeal and asked the Red Cross rather for a development of its existing service than for a completely new venture.

It is one of the essentials of the Voluntary Social Service scheme that only constructive works serving the common good may be carried out. Moreover they must avoid competition with the free labour market. Work is considered "constructive" if it could not be carried out without the assistance of voluntary service. Strictly speaking "works serving the common good" may be carried out only by public bodies or by associations or institutions whose activities are of common utility.

Enterprises aiming at commercial gain are rigidly excluded from the Voluntary Service Scheme. Even work done for the community must be work for the common good that would not otherwise be undertaken. A distinction is made throughout between the *supplier of work* and *the supplier of service.* For instance the German Women's Red Cross, as supplier of *work*, may decide on the improvement of the garden of a children's convalescent home. The supplier of *service* in this instance is the First Aid Detachment which makes its younger members available for the purpose. In some cases it is the same organization which supplies work and service.

Voluntary Service employs young people for a period of 20 weeks, but this may be extended to 40 weeks if the work is prolonged because of some particular social-economic value.

A small government grant is made to the organization employing the volunteers. This provides for food and lodging where necessary, for equipment, accident insurance, pocket money, and sometimes for clothing. Where the Red Cross is the organization concerned, it provides tools and instructors for the work.

Where necessary the volunteers are organized in Labour Camps. These are of two kinds: camps where they "live in" and are lodged for the duration of the work, and "open" camps which are only used during the day-time as the volunteers return home in the evening. In both camps provision is made for occupying the leisure time of the volunteers and opportunity is provided for social and educational activities and the completer fortification of character against disintegrating circumstances.

Generally speaking, both the "open" and "self contained" camps provide six hours work a day and the rest of the time is divided among sports, games and entertainments.

The term "constructive work" covers a fairly wide range. Young male workers are employed in the cultivation of fallow and waste land, road building, afforestation, building of canals, laying out playgrounds, allotments, etc. It is not so easy to find work for young girls in such large numbers, but they have more opportunities to make themselves useful in their own homes than the boys. The Red Cross and other organizations have, however, trained many girls in needlework with a view to facilitating the task of welfare organizations. Young girls are employed particularly in cleaning and mending garments that have been collected for the "Winter Relief". Many hospitals, mothers' and children's homes have had to cut down their staff and are glad of help from voluntary social service in providing linen, garments and other requirements. The girls also help to wash and mend undergarments and clothes and to cook for the male members of the Service.

Most Women's Voluntary Service groups work in "self contained camps" where they are fed and lodged during 20 weeks and receive a training in domestic work. If the camp is in the country they are able in addition to work in the garden, the fields and the poultry yard, and are taught dairy work and other farm activities.

The Red Cross also co-operates actively in CRISIS SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. This service pays special attention to boys and girls still too young for Voluntary Service and to those let out from Voluntary Service during the winter months when outdoor work ceases.

The general lines of the Government plan for Crisis Service for Young People were laid down in a circular of 24th December 1932 issued by the National Labour and Unemployment Insurance Office. They were as follows:

(1) to give occupational training to young people of both sexes between 14 and 25 during their enforced leisure and to protect them against the results of compulsory idleness by practical training.
(2) to assure them board and lodging and assist them to procure and keep in order the necessary working clothes.
(3) to afford them the opportunity for sport as a means of sustaining their physical strength.
(4) to promote their intellectual development.

The practical realization of the programme depends on the creation of "working committees" which are formed in close connexion with the labour exchanges and contain representatives of all interested bodies such as the Young People's Welfare Offices, professional schools, private welfare agencies working among young people (and especially winter relief organizations), clergy and teachers, all kinds of Youth Associations, professional associations, employers' associations, etc.

The Crisis Service for Young People aims at providing four hours work or instruction a day for unemployed adolescents—as far as possible two hours training for skilled and half-skilled work and two hours physical or intellectual training. This training is intended as a substitute for the practical training that used to be given in the factory or the office. The courses form a preparatory training for the younger boys who have never worked, while for those who have already had work they serve as continuation courses. In addition girls will do household work and boys various works of public utility.

Properly speaking, the organization of the occupational training and training for apprenticeship belongs to the Labour Exchanges. But general education and material aid to young unemployed fall on private organizations and on the Red Cross. In particular the Women's Red Cross Committees have already instituted courses in housekeeping, cooking, butchery, sewing, washing and mending, health, sick care and child welfare courses. The Men's Committees intend to start first-aid courses.

The Red Cross has made use of its rest and convalescent homes and has fitted them up as TEMPORARY HOSTELS where it lodges, feeds and trains those who are too young to enter the Voluntary Service or have been dismissed by the Service during the winter when works serving the common good are suspended.

Whilst the Red Cross women's committees guarantee material aid and the upkeep of garments, the Youth Associations and gymnastic and sporting societies supply leaders and organize physical training.

The Men's Committees and first aid detachments are requested to lend their premises for the "Crisis Service" and where possible they will start courses in manual work and carpentry.

A German Red Cross circular calls on the Men's and Women's Committees to work together in "Crisis Relief for Young People" and to organize canteens, repair shops (shoes, clothing), participation in winter relief, where young unemployed will be used to assist destitute families, the sick and the aged.

In both forms of voluntary service the part of the Red Cross is that of co-operation with the state, and the employment and development of its existing services with special reference to the young unemployed. The more one learns of the disintegrating effect of unemployment on the adolescent and on the school child, the more it appears that—short of widespread industrial revival—the greatest hope lies in the development of such schemes of voluntary service. They provide discipline, occupation, comradeship and a goal. Where Red Cross Societies interest themselves actively in this problem, it is perhaps along these lines that they will find their most fruitful solution.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION AS A RED CROSS ACTIVITY

THE connexion of the Red Cross with blood transfusion dates back to 1921, when the Camberwell (London) Division of the British Red Cross Society received a request for a blood donor to meet a sudden emergency. Four members volunteered, but, before the transfusion could be effected, the patient died. The Camberwell Division realized that blood transfusion presented an opportunity for community service which the Red Cross could ill afford to neglect, and took immediate steps to prepare a list of volunteers for future emergencies. About a score were enrolled.

By the end of 1922, thirteen transfusions had taken place and hospitals were beginning to turn to the Red Cross for their needs in this connexion. In 1923, twelve more donors were applied for and provided, while in 1924 the number of applications dealt with increased to 62. The demands were becoming too numerous for the Division to cope with, so the Honorary Secretary wrote a letter explaining the harmlessness of the operation to donors and appealing for volunteers from the general public. The call was answered by about thirty persons, including a Rover Scout, who interested his organization in the work and caused it to be adopted as one of their service projects. The publicity thus given led to an enormous increase in the number of applications received, so that, in 1925, the Camberwell Division gave up the work and it was taken over by the British Red Cross Society.

The number of calls on the service has risen steadily: from 1,360 in 1929 to 2,078 in 1931. One patient has received 150 transfusions and has been kept alive for the past six years solely by the aid of members of the service. It is probably worth recording the percentage of successful cases which, in 1931, was the highest on record :

979 or 56 per cent: good, very good, or excellent.
456 or 23 per cent: satisfactory improvement.
309 or 17 per cent: temporary improvement.
75 or 4 per cent: no apparent benefit.

The Society now gives a badge to each donor after ten transfusions and adds a bar for every successive ten.

The Society also possesses a film showing the process of blood transfusion. It has proved a very useful propaganda instrument and was used by the Woolwich Borough Council in their Health Week Exhibition. A pathologist was in daily attendance to test the blood of prospective volunteers.

The Society has had to contend with various prejudices against blood-transfusion but records that, during the year 1931, no donor was compelled to lose time from business as a result of weakness due to loss of blood; whenever time permitted, the donor returned to work immediately after the transfusion. Donors are drawn from all classes of the community—independent and professional men and women, barristers, journalists, shop assistants, labourers, apprentices, road men, maidservants and charwomen. Ages range from eighteen, which is the lowest limit, to fifty or even sixty. In most cases calls are answered within half an hour of their receipt from the hospital, and it is very seldom that more than an hour elapses.

To protect the interests of its members, the Blood Transfusion Service has drawn up a list of conditions under which it supplies donors. For example: an application is not to be made unless there are no relatives available of the right blood-group; the operation is to be carried out by a skilled surgeon and not by students; each hospital is to share in testing and grouping volunteers for the general list without charge.

In each case a report on the patient has to be sent to the Service for statistical purposes. There is a further provision that only the modern needle method of extraction shall be used. At least three months are allowed between calls upon the same donor.

The expenses are borne by a fund raised by the Service. As it is intended to benefit voluntary hospitals as well as patients, no charge is made to the former, but should any spontaneous donation be made in respect of the Service by a patient or relatives, this is paid into the fund.

The fund began by being self-supporting, but in 1931 difficulties were encountered, partly due to the extra cost of a Medical Officer. The bulk of the income comes from spontaneous donations received from private patients and from the collection and sale of tinfoil. A few hospitals give a regular subscription or forward sums received from patients in paying wards, but in the large majority of cases no receipts at all are obtained from this source.

No fees are charged to private cases, it being left to the patient or relatives to decide on the appropriate sum. It varies from one to five guineas, though larger sums have been received. The Service pays all expenses of donors including conveyance and, when necessary, compensates them for any time lost from business, but discourages attempts to make monetary gifts to donors. The average cost of a call on the Service is about six shillings.

The British Red Cross Society has prepared a list of hints on the formation of a voluntary blood-transfusion service.

The Central Committee of the British Red Cross Society is always willing to provide the services of a lecturer and to give advice in helping to organize local services.

The Blood Transfusion Service in London has received many enquiries from other parts of the world on the best methods of organizing similar services. The Blood Transfusion Betterment Association of New York was based on the service initiated by the British Red Cross.

Certain of the other National Societies have either started, or are contemplating starting, similar services. The Norwegian Red Cross, for instance, is studying the question of a blood transfusion service, and the Australian Red Cross has started one in Victoria. The Danish Red Cross is also considering the possibility and an experimental start has been made with boy scouts.

The Dutch Red Cross has organized an excellent voluntary blood transfusion service at Rotterdam. Prospective donors are first examined by a doctor. Volunteers' names are inscribed on a list which is kept at the hospital and they can be called upon by any doctor or hospital at any time. The headquarters of the service is responsible for the transport of the donor and the service is given free of charge to poor patients. Others are asked to pay according to their means. The money is used to cover the cost of organization and to keep a library on the subject of blood transfusion.

There is a similar service at The Hague and another is being organized at Amsterdam.

Some years ago the Spanish Red Cross hospital at Alicante organized a blood transfusion service of about 40 persons, most of them first aid men, who are gratuitous donors to the poor. Moreover the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society recently started a voluntary blood transfusion service composed of nurses and first aid men.

The organization of a blood-transfusion service seems an activity peculiarly suited to the ideals of the Red Cross and one where the Red Cross can render most useful service to the community. It is essential that the service should be well organized so that there is no unnecessary delay between the receipt of a call and the appearance of the donor at the hospital. In fact, this side of the organization is one that presents some difficulty, especially at night. It has been partly overcome by arranging with some telephone subscriber in the vicinity to transmit messages to the donor.

Volunteer work has always been one of the essential features of Red Cross activity. Most Red Cross Societies have First Aid Detachments, Voluntary Aids and Sewing groups etc., Where no blood transfusion service already exists, they might well consider its inclusion among their other activities. Moreover a Red Cross Society, both on account of its existing organization and of its relations with other bodies should have little difficulty in finding an initial group of donors which could be enlarged later. What more direct and practical way can there be of fulfilling the Red Cross ideal of relieving suffering?

THIRD INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL CONGRESS

(Knocke-sur-Mer, Belgium, June 28th to July 3rd, 1933)

THERE is probably no national Red Cross Society in the world today which does not possess hospitals, sanatoria, or at least clinics of its own. These institutions are no longer the simple organisms they used to be; in the course of the last generation or two, constant evolution in hospital technique has caused them to become exceedingly complex enterprises. If they are to yield the maximum of efficiency at the minimum of expense, their directors must keep in close touch with fresh developments in every part of the globe: they must compare the utility and cost of the different methods of construction, equipment and management; establish a system of accountancy which will give an accurate idea of the efficiency of equipment and staff; organize contact between the hospital or dispensary and outside services engaged in medical care, hygiene, social work and general welfare.

It was for the practical study of such problems that the International Hospital Association was founded. The Association has set up ten permanent Study Commissions, each charged with a specific branch of hospital technique. These commissions, composed of three hundred experts from all parts of the world, compile reports for the periodical Congresses organized by the International Hospital Association.

The first Congress, held at Atlantic City in 1929, brought together more than a hundred delegates from thirty-five countries. The second, which met in Vienna two years later,

proved even more successful, being attended by over five hundred delegates from forty-three countries. It is difficult to predict, at this early stage, to what extent the economic depression will affect the attendance at the third Congress, but there is every reason to hope that the patience and enthusiasm which the organizers have given to the preparation of this Congress will be amply rewarded.

The First International Post-Graduate Course on Hospital Technique, organized in 1932 at Frankfort-on-Main, was followed by 150 persons, representing seventeen countries of Europe and the Near East.

NOSOKOMEION, the organ of the International Hospital Association, now entering upon its fourth year, has as object the dissemination of items of general and technical knowledge which are essential to hospital progress.

The way to the Third International Congress, which will be officially opened at Knocke-sur-Mer on June 27th next by the Belgian Minister of Health and Social Welfare, will thus have been carefully prepared. The National Hospital Associations now existing in sixteen different countries, have all co-operated freely in the preparations. The text of the reports appeared in the April issue of NOSOKOMEION. They will be discussed first in Commission and then in plenary session, with a view to formulating general conclusions applicable to all countries.

The Red Cross Societies participating will glean much valuable information, which will enable them to avoid costly errors in construction and installation, to adopt tried methods of procedure, and to extend the scope of their services. The League of Red Cross Societies has lent the services of its Technical Counsellor, who has been associated from the beginning with this interesting piece of international work, the potentialities of which are enormous.

The Congress is to be held under the joint auspices of the International Hospital Association, the Belgian Red Cross and the Belgian Hospital Association.

A visit to Holland has been arranged to follow the Congress, from July 4th to 8th, to enable delegates to study Dutch hospitals and institutions.

The work of the hospital is no longer limited to the care of the sick alone; it has a definite function to perform in the prevention of disease and is rapidly becoming the nucleus of the campaign for health. A meeting such as that which will be held at Knocke next month to define the programme of this evolution in the conception of the hospital is a matter of vital concern to all national Red Cross Societies, and it is to be hoped that as many of them as possible will endeavour to be represented.

THE ORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL CARE

IN the interests of public health and humanity, it is vital that each individual should be afforded the appropriate medical care necessary to keep him in good health or to cure him if he is ill.

A Study Commission on the Cost of Medical Care was set up in America five years ago to examine the possibility of providing such care for the entire population of the United States. This commission, which was subventioned by eight American Foundations, was composed of doctors, hygienists, nurses, economists, representatives of hospitals, social institutions and professional medical bodies, pharmacists, etc. Its chairman was Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Leland Stanford University, and its vice-chairman Professor C.-E. A. Winslow, director of the Yale University School of Hygiene and former Health Director of the League of Red Cross Societies. Having published the results of twentysix exhaustive studies, it has now concluded its mandate by handing over to the press its final report, which is a veritable mine of information and packed with valuable suggestions.

After keeping under constant observation nearly forty thousand persons over a space of twelve consecutive months, the Commission came to the conclusion that the proportion of medical and dental consultations, preventive examinations, inoculations, etc., is still far below what it should be, even in the case of well-to-do families; as one descends the social scale, this unsatisfactory position is accentuated. Thirty-eight per cent of the population (ranging from 14 to 47 per cent according to their walk of life) received no medical or dental care of any description during that time.

This state of affairs, which is obviously prejudicial to public health, is ascribed to three causes: neglect or indifference, defective medical and hygiene organization in small towns and rural areas, and, finally, the disproportion between individual or family means and the cost of medical treatment.

The Commission has ascertained that adequate care would cost approximately $36 per head per annum, or roughly $150 for a family of four. It so happens that the income of half the families in America is under $2,000 a year, this providing them with the bare necessities of life and no more. A quarter of the population earns from two to three thousand

dollars a year, which leaves but a narrow margin.

The expenses occasioned by illness vary considerably from one family to another and from year to year. There is only way of making these expenses bearable, and that is by a system of insurance which would equalize them. It is impossible, however, to demand a regular subscription from those families whose incomes are barely adequate to cover even the elementary needs of life. This is where the intervention of the public authorities becomes imperative.

The Commission is in favour of the maintenance of personal relations between doctor and patient and of improving not only the quantity but the quality of medical care. The majority of its members are partisans of a preventive and curative medical service, provided by teams composed of doctors, surgeons, specialists, dentists, nurses and chemists, and established in a well-equipped hospital. The expenses would be met by an insurance system which, unlike the social insurance funds, would not grant sickness benefits. The sole object of such an insurance scheme, which certain members of the Commission would like optional and others obligatory, would be to meet the expenses of medical treatment and prophylaxis. The public authorities would subvention the funds to the extent necessary to compensate the insufficiencies of the subscriptions paid by families of small means and to provide for the treatment of paupers, chronic cases and so forth. In collaboration with the professional medical bodies, they would also go thoroughly into the question of improving and co-ordinating the medical, hospital and sanitary organization of the area coming within their jurisdiction.

The report of the Commission is signed by thirty-five of its members; divergent opinions were advanced by two groups consisting of seven and two members respectively, and by two individual members. The first group was opposed, in particular, to the medical team idea. All, however, were agreed as to the urgency of taking steps to enable the whole population to obtain the necessary medical care.

Here is a world-wide problem the interest of which will be patent to the Red Cross. In most countries, the medical institutions are lacking in cohesion and there is no rationalized scheme for medical care. The duty of the Red Cross Societies is to join in seeking a solution of this problem, not only because of the important part which they would be called upon to play in such a scheme but, above all, because the health and welfare of the people forms an integral part of their programme and ideal.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Air Ambulances

An informal meeting was held at League Headquarters on April 4th in the course of which problems connected with the organization of Air Ambulance services were discussed. Mr. A. Maudslay, C. B. E. (British Red Cross) took the chair, and the other Red Cross representatives present included delegates from the Argentine, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Persia, Poland and Sweden. The International Air Traffic Association was represented by its Director General, Jonkheer van den Berch van Hemstede.

M. Comoz, the aeronautics expert of the International Chamber of Commerce, spoke on co-operation between commercial air lines and Red Cross Societies in the transport of the sick in peace-time, and M. Charlet, Assistant Secretary General of the "Amis de l'Aviation Sanitaire", on the possibilities of co-operation in this field between the Red Cross and private aviation clubs. Mr. Maudslay referred to the help which might be given by aeroplane constructors.

The delegates present expressed the feeling that, in view of the expense entailed in the maintenance by national Societies of ambulance aeroplanes of their own, the League Secretariat should concentrate on the problem of Red Cross co-operation with Government services, civil and military, commercial air lines and aviation clubs, so as to ensure the provision of a national and international air ambulance service in peacetime. They suggested that the study of this problem should be pursued in close collaboration with the national Red Cross Societies, aeroplane constructors, commercial air lines, and aviation clubs and societies.

The hope was expressed that the League would continue to work closely with the Standing Committee of the International Air Ambulance Congress, and would arrange to be represented at meetings organized by this Committee.

Malaria and Quinine

It is common knowledge that, in tropical and subtropical lands, a large proportion of the inhabitants fall victims to malaria very early in life. When one adds to these the innumerable seats of malaria existing in temperate climates, it is hardly surprising to read that the number of malaria sufferers throughout the world is estimated at several hundreds of millions.

Quinine and substitutes for quinine constitute at one and the same time the sole treatment and one of the most efficacious preventives for malaria.

From an investigation conducted by the Health Organization of the League of Nations, it appears that only 17 million cases are actually under treatment. Except in the European countries, the quantity of quinine used works out at not more than 7 grams per head per annum, and is frequently as low as half a gram.

It is therefore evident that far too little use is

being made of quinine—less than 100,000 kilograms a year, instead of the 1,400,000 which would be essential for the 17 millions of cases treated and the still higher quantity which would be needed to treat all existing malaria cases.

Maternity and Child Welfare

We are asked to announce the Sixth English-Speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, which will be held in London from July 5th to 7th next under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality. The chair will be taken by Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the National Council for Maternity and Child Welfare and of the British Red Cross Society, while Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the British Ministry of Health, will deliver the presidential address.

Among the subjects set down for discussion are the following:

The Scope and Advancement of Ante-natal Care.
The Care and Protection of Illegitimate Children in relation to their future citizenship.
The Health of the Child in relation to its environment, with special reference to Tuberculosis and Overcrowding.
Ways and Means of Propaganda.
Those Early Years.

On July 5th, H.R.H. The Duchess of York will receive the delegates at a garden party at St. James' Palace.

The fee for full membership in the Conference is one guinea.

Visits to a wide range of maternity and child welfare institutions will be arranged to take place during the Conference, and the National Baby Week Council will organize a display of child welfare and health propaganda films.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health are arranging a short post-graduate clinical course to precede the Conference on July 3rd and 4th.

Applications for particulars and tickets should be addressed to Miss J. Halford, 117 Piccadilly, London, W. 1.

International Cancer Meeting

An International Congress on the scientific and social aspects of the campaign against cancer has been convened to meet in Madrid from October 25th to 30th, 1933, under the patronage of the President of the Spanish Republic. It will be divided into two sections, scientific and social, and will examine every aspect of the cancer problem.

A series of lectures and an exhibition are to be held in connexion with the conference.

LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Executive Committee

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the League on April 3rd was attended by:

The Marquis de Lillers (France), Colonel Draudt (Germany), Señor Conill (Cuba), Mr. S. Yamanouchi (Japan), Vice-Chairmen.

Sir Edward Stewart (Great Britain, representing Sir Arthur Stanley.

Señor Navarro Viola (Argentina), representing General Garino.

Count H. Potocki (Poland).

The Marquis Capranica del Grillo (Italy), representing Senator Ciraolo.

M. Ivan Altinoff (Bulgaria), representing Dr. Daneff.

Baron Stjernstedt (Sweden).

The following attended by invitation:

Mme Frick Cramer and Mr. Sidney Brown (International Red Cross Committee).

Mr. Elemer de Simon, President of the Hungarian Red Cross.

Colonel Taucher (Finnish Red Cross).

Mr. Roscher Lund (Norwegian Red Cross).

The resolutions adopted were as follows:

I

The Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies, deeply moved by the sad loss which the Red Cross has sustained through the death of Dr. van Slooten-Azn, who, for many years, represented the Netherlands Red Cross on the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee with such zeal and distinction,

Presents its heartfelt condolences to the Netherlands Red Cross Society and to the family of Dr. van Slooten.

II

The Executive Committee approves the report of the Secretary General for the period October 1932-March 1933.

III

The Executive Committee approves the report of Colonel Draudt, thanks him for the manner in which he has continued to carry out his mandate, and expresses the hope that the excellent co-operative relationship between the International Red Cross Committee and the League may continue to develop along the lines indicated.

IV

The Executive Committee approves the report of the Finance Committee, expresses its satisfaction with the financial position of the League as shown in that report, and thanks the National Societies which have already forwarded their contributions to the 1933 budget for the effort which they are making to continue support of the international work of the Red Cross despite the difficulties inherent in the world economic crisis.

V

The Executive Committee designates as members of the Standing Finance Committee in addition to M. Yamanouchi, Vice-Chairman, and Señor Navarro Viola, who were appointed by the Board of Governors:

The Marquis de Lillers, Vice-Chairman,

Colonel Draudt, Vice-Chairman,

Señor Conill, Vice-Chairman.

VI

The Executive Committee, expresses its appreciation of the methodical and careful preparations made by the Czechoslovak Red Cross to ensure the success of the Prague Conference,

notes with gratification the large number of Societies which have arranged to be represented at Prague and the enthusiasm with which many of them have participated in the preparation of the Conference,

and approves the reports prepared by the League Secretariat as a basis for the discussions.

VII

The Executive Committee, takes note of the Brazilian Red Cross Societys' decision to postpone until a convenient future date the Third Pan-American Red Cross Conference which it had been planned to hold at Rio de Janeiro in 1933,

and instructs the Secretariat to continue, pending developments favourable to the resumption of the preparations for this conference, to afford the fullest possible collaboration to the Red Cross Societies of the American continent in perfecting their organization and developing their peace-time activities.

VIII

The Executive Committee takes note of Judge Payne's delegation to the Secretary General of the mandate given to him, jointly with Judge Huber, by the XIVth International Red Cross Conference, to represent the International Red Cross in the conversations to be held with the representatives of the International Relief Union.

and expresses the hope that the functioning of the Central and Permanent Service of the Union may be organized in a manner giving full satisfaction to all parties.

IX

The Executive Committee takes note of the decision of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, acting on the proposal of the Japan Red Cross, to fix the date of October 20th, 1934, for the opening of the XVth International Red Cross Conference.

invites the Secretariat, in agreement with the International Red Cross Committee, to endeavour to persuade the National Societies to include in their delegations one or more competent experts to serve on the special commissions for Nursing and Junior Red Cross,

and authorizes the Secretary General to convene the members of the Board of Governors to meet in Tokyo as from October 19th, 1934, in accordance with the suggestion of the President of the Japan Red Cross.

X

The Executive Committee approves the plans of the Secretariat for the period April-October 1933.

XI

The Executive Committee decides to hold its next meeting on Monday, October 30th, 1933.

Board of Governors

The League Secretariat has been advised of the nomination of *H. E. Dr. Francisco Castillo Nájera* as representative of the Mexican Red Cross Society on the Board of Governors of the League, in succession to H. E. Señor Alfonso Castello.

Study Visits

During the month of April, the visitors received at League Headquarters for purposes of study have included:

Mr. Elemer de Simon, President of the Hungarian Red Cross.

Col. Taucher, Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross.

Mr. Roscher Lund, Norwegian Red Cross.

Señor San Miguel y Tomé, Spanish Red Cross.

Missions

Mr. Ernest J. Swift, Secretary-General, accompanied by *Mr. L. E. de Gielgud*, went to Brussels to join Colonel P. Draudt, vice-Chairman, in representing the League on March 30th at the meeting of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross Conference.

Dr. René Sand, Technical Counsellor, went to Geneva, at the end of March to attend the meeting of the League of Nations' Committee on the Protection of Women and Children.

Mr. Petersén, Director of the Relief Division, and *Mr. Nanson*, of the Information and Propaganda Service, accompanied the delegates of national Societies on their visit to first-aid posts in Northern France, Belgium and Holland (see p. 83).

The Secretary-General *Mr. Ernest J. Swift*, the Technical Counsellor, *Dr. René Sand*, *M. de Rougé* and *Mlle Lefebvre* (Nursing Division) represented the League Secretariat at the Prague Conference and at the celebration of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Truce (April 12th to 15th).

Mr. Swift and *M. de Rougé* attended the annual meeting of the ''Association des Dames Françaises'' (French Red Cross) in Paris on April 2nd. *M. de Rougé* and *M. Milsom*, Director of the Junior Red Cross Division, were present at the Assembly of the French Junior Red Cross on April 6th.

Mr. de Gielgud, Under Secretary-General, was present at the meeting held at the Mansion House, London, on April 20th in connexion with the forthcoming ''Red Cross Day'' to be held by the British Red Cross Society on May 12th.

Mr. Swift attended a meeting of the Nansen International Office for Refugees on April 26th. While in Geneva, he conferred informally with Dr. Max Huber, Senator Ciraolo and Colonel Draudt in regard to matters connected with the International Relief Union.

Mrs. Carter, Director of the Nursing Division, went to Geneva at the end of April to discuss with the International Council of Nurses various questions relating to the International Nursing Conference to be held in July at Paris and Brussels.

Contributions to League Budget

Further contributions to the League budget for the year 1933 have reached the Secretariat from the following Societies:

Japan Red Cross. . . .	10,000 Yen.
Netherlands Red Cross	1,000 Florins (for 1932)

BOOK REVIEWS

Il Manuale dell'Infermiere, Italian Red Cross, Rome 1932.

The Italian Red Cross has now issued the seventh edition of its Nursing Manual, revised and brought up to date by Doctors Venceslas Fraschetti and Zeno Mataloni. In its present simplified form, the manual should prove of inestimable service in the training of volunteer health workers. It deals not only with first aid, care of the sick and transportation of patients, but also with the prevention of infectious diseases, social maladies, physical culture, lactation and the personal hygiene of the nurse. The final chapter is devoted to a description of the aims and organization of the Red Cross.

Un Pericolo Sociale : Le Brucellosi, By Prof. A. Alessandrini and Dr. M. Pacelli. Published by "Annali d'Igiene", Via della Finanze 14, Rome, 1932.

The eminent bacteriologist, Nicolle, once said of undulant (or Malta) fever that it was a disease of the future, and, in fact, it has today become one of the main preoccupations of the hygienist.

By devoting to *brucelloses* (i.e. the different manifestations of this disease) a perfectly documented monography, Professor Alessandrini— who has already made a name for himself by his discoveries in this field—and Dr. Pacelli have rendered a very genuine service to all engaged in public health work.

Technologie elémentaire envisagée au point de vue de la salubrité et de la sécurité du travail, By Dr. Désiré Glibert. Published by Les Editions Jocistes, Brussels and Paris.

The two first parts of this popular treatise are of special interest to the Red Cross for the useful advice given to inhabitants of rural areas. A profusion of pictures and diagrams enables the least initiated of readers to grasp the meaning of the very clear and concise directions which the book contains as to the manner of preventing landslides, felling and loading trees, carrying scythes, manipulating pitchforks, and a host of other simple precautions against accident which should rightly be taught in the school. Another section of the book is devoted to hygiene—cleanliness of house and body, the construction of water-tight manure pits, the protection of wells, etc.

Contributions from the Anna M. R. Lauder Department of Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine, Vol. XII, 1931.

Under the guidance of Professors C.-E. A. Winslow and Ira V. Hiscock, the Yale University School of Medicine is continuing not only to turn out trained health workers but to help forward the progress of science and to disseminate knowledge in relation thereto. The publications of the School included in the above volume comprise studies on school ventilation, diseases of school-children, the general effects of a draught concentrated on the head or the feet, the utilization of clinical cases in the teaching of hygiene, in addition to the Public Health Surveys which are a special feature of the Yale School. The object of these studies is to offer suggestions for reforms in public and private health services and to enlighten public opinion.

Protection of Civilians from Attacks from the Air.

The Danish Red Cross has just published a pamphlet in which the problem of the protection of civilians from attacks from the air is dealt with both fully and concisely. The first section deals with the historical aspect and with the international conferences at which this problem has been discussed. The nature of the various gases that may be used in warfare is discussed and an account is given of how civilians may protect themselves against such gases. The organization of a gas protection service is also outlined. It is pointed out that the Danish Red Cross cannot by itself solve all the problems concerned,and it has therefore felt obliged to draw the attention of the public to the necessity for co-operation. There is so much loose talking and writing about this problem that this most informative pamphlet has appeared opportunely.

The Common Cold, Annals of the Pickett-Thomson Research Laboratory, December 1932, Vol. VIII, London. Baillière, Tindall and Cox. Pp. 738, 51 illustrations.

The staff of the Pickett-Thomson Laboratory has performed the colossal feat of analyzing all the existing publications on the common cold, of which there are upwards of 2,000, and adding thereto the results of their own investigations. Although benign in appearance, the common cold is responsible for enormous material losses, and can entail grave, and often fatal, complications. In the view of the authors, there are several different species of cold, due to a variety of causes, among which chills, faulty ventilation, excessive heating and fatigue undoubtedly play a preponderating rôle. Although no universal panacea has yet been found, preventive and curative vaccines have proved effective especially if accompanied by reasonable precautionary measures.

Outline of Preventive Medicine for Medical Practitioners and Students, New York, 2nd edition. Paul Haber, 1932. Price $2.

This excellent manual, the first edition of which was announced in "The World's Health" in 1929, is due to the collaboration of 24 experts, and has been enriched by three new chapters. Published under the guidance of a pathologist (Prof. Fredk. E. Sondern), a surgeon (Professor Chas. Gordon Heyd), and a hospital and health specialist (Dr. E. H. L. Corwin), the manual contains all that the practitioner should know of medicine and pre-clinical hygiene, that often obscure and latent phase of disease during which diagnosis and early treatment have the greatest chance of success. No doctor or medical student should be without this book.

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

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"League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin." League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin, vol. 14, no. 5, May 1933. Global Development and Humanitarian Aid, link.gale.com/apps/doc/KBXHVY063763937/GDHA?u=omni&sid=bookmark-GDHA. Accessed 24 Aug. 2026.